Kuttanad, fell an easy prey were agonising in the extreme. The Government hastened to the rescue of the afflicted. Public spirit also rose equal to the occasion and the measures of relief organised and splendidly carried out by a willing people and a zealous body of officials did all that was possible for human agency to do. For the details of the several measures adopted and the relief given, I would invite you to a perusal of the press notes on the subject issued from time to time. Gratuitous relief to the extent of about half a lakh of rupees was afforded from the State exchequer, while a generous public, both in and outside the State, placed a sum of over Rs. 64,000 at the disposal of the Central Flood Relief Committee, which that committee applied with praiseworthy thoroughness both to immediate relief and to reconstruction purposes. The Land Revenue Commissioner was placed by the Government in special charge of relief and reconstruction operations; and the Chief Engineer was directed to start relief works in localities where the refugees could not find work. Building materials were arranged to be distributed by the Forest Department free of cost to the poor and at cost price to others. *Kandukrishi* paddy was set free and sold at favourable rates. The provision under agricultural loans was increased from Rs. 1,00,000 to Rs. 5,50,000, of which Rs. 5 lakhs were ear-marked for the relief of the agricultural population in the affected areas. Rs. 2,00,000 out of this amount were made available for distribution through co-operative societies and a special temporary staff of Inspectors was created for the purpose of helping the societies in the prompt and proper distribution of loans. Though lands in Central and North Travancore are not, under the Remission Rules, eligible for such concessions, the collection of *kist* for the Kanni crop of the year was suspended in seventy *pakuthies* of the Quilon Division and ninety-six *pakuthies* of the Kottayam Division, while it is under contemplation to allow remission of *kist* for the Kanni crop in the case of fifty-six *pakuthies* of the former Division and eighty-six *pakuthies* of the latter. All the taluks of the Quilon Division, except Shencottah and Karunagapalli, and all the taluks of the Kottayam Division, except Todupuzha, benefit by the above arrangements. The grant to the Public Works Department for the current year was increased by three lakhs of rupees for the restoration of communications, bridges, and irrigation and drainage works damaged by the floods, and the department has been prompt in carrying out the needed restoration works and in providing labour for the unemployed. By these and other measures, it has been possible for the Government to mitigate to a large extent the sufferings caused by the unprecedented floods which preceded the demise of His Highness Sri Mûlam Tirunâl; and the rehabilitation of the people and the restoration of normal conditions in the affected areas have, in the result, been remarkably quick. On behalf of the Government of Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent, I tender cordial acknowledgments to all those who have contributed to the relief of suffering on the occasion of this unforeseen visitation of nature.

14. Agriculture. The posts of Assistant Agricultural Chemist and Assistant Director of Agriculture, sanctioned in 1096, were filled in 1097 and 1098 respectively. An Economic Botanist was appointed tentatively for a period of two years from the 1st Chingam, 1099. The four State scholars who were prosecuting higher studies in Agriculture at Poona returned after passing the B. Ag. degree examination of the Bombay University, and two of them have been absorbed in the Department of Agriculture and the remaining two in that of Co-operation. Of the two scholars employed in the Agricultural Department, one has specialised in cattle breeding and improvement, and he has consequently been placed in charge of the cattle farms at Trivandrum and Isantimangalam. The soil survey of Nanjinad, Kuttanad and Vaikam has been so far completed, and bulletins on the soil survey of the first two areas are under issue. The Assistant Agricultural Chemist, who returned from Pusa in Medam, 1099, after a course of training in agricultural bacteriology, has taken up the bio-chemical investigation of peaty soils. The Government have sanctioned the proposals of the department for opening an experimental station at Purakkad for conducting field experiments on the reclamation of peaty soils, and arrangements are now in progress for starting the work. A nursery of cardamom seedlings has been opened on the High Ranges, and an area of three acres has been sown with selected seeds for raising healthy seedlings for distribution to cardamom cultivators.

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The advantages to be secured by the adoption of improved cultural methods are being successfully demonstrated on ryots' lands in almost all important agricultural centres. Special attention is being devoted to the distribution of selected seeds and the popularisation of scientific manures. There are at present 10 departmental depôts and 40 depôts managed by private persons and co-operative societies, as also two private companies, engaged in the sale of scientific manures. Five bulletins and 13 leaflets on agricultural subjects have been issued by the department during the past four years. The scheme for the award of grants for the maintenance of breeding bulls, brought into force from Kumbhom, 1096, continues to be popular, and the keepers of 72 such bulls received grants in 1099.

15. The school for training students in rug and carpet making, opened in the farm at Trivandrum on the 1st Edavam, 1098, continues to work satisfactorily. The first batch of students completed their course in the school in Medam last and a second batch of ten students are now undergoing training. About fifty youths have been trained in silk-worm rearing and silk-reeling, and arrangements have just been completed to assign a small block of land each to them in the Nedumangad taluk to enable them to raise the mulberry plant. The Agricultural Middle School, experimentally established at Alwaye towards the close of 1097, continues to be popular and its term has been extended. The school has been opened with the object of imparting instruction in the elements of practical farming to students who propose to pursue agriculture as a profession in after-life, and with the workshop attached to it affords training in the manufacture and repair of most of the common agricultural tools and implements. The final examination of the first batch of students trained in the institution was conducted in Medam last, and a second batch of students have been admitted for training. The buildings for the location of the second Agricultural Middle School, proposed to be opened at Kottarakara, are in progress and are expected to be completed in time to admit of the school being opened in 1101.

16. With a view to exercise better supervision over the work of veterinary officers, the Senior Veterinary Inspector was appointed as the assistant to the Director of Agriculture in veterinary matters, and all the veterinary institutions in the State were, with effect from the 1st Tulam, 1099, brought under his immediate control. Though the number of veterinary institutions has risen only from 11 to 12 during the past four years, the number of in-patients and out-patients treated in them has risen from 6,573 to 9,703. A beginning has been made in the current year to encourage approved private veterinary physicians by the award of grants-in-aid.

17. The number of fish-curing yards has increased from 3 in 1096 to 9 in 1099 and one more has since been added to that number. The fisher-folk have begun to appreciate the advantages of controlled fish-curing and are clamouring for more yards.

18. Agricultural Loans. In my address to the members of the eighteenth session of the Assembly, I mentioned the several directions in which the rules under the Land Improvement and Agricultural Loans Regulation, which had till then been practically a dead letter, were revised, with a view to make agricultural loans popular. The procedure relating to enquiries on applications for loans was simplified, the powers of the land revenue officers in the matter of grant of loans were enhanced, encumbrance certificates in regard to property offered as security were exempted from search fees, provision was made for the grant of loans in certain cases on personal security alone, and a system of convenient equated repayments of both principal and interest was introduced. These measures are bearing increased fruit. As against a handful of applications for loans received prior to the adoption of the revised provisions in 1096, 474 applications were received in 1097, 452 in 1098, and 356 in 1099, the amounts of the loans sanctioned during these three years being Rs. 96,236, Rs. 92,534 and Rs. 1,27,892 respectively. Of the 174 applications sanctioned in 1099, it is gratifying to note that all except three related to loans of Rs. 2,000 and below, which shows that the benefits of these rules are reaching the less wealthy agriculturists for whom they are mainly intended. Orders have been issued to the effect that applications for loans from well-to-do land-owners, who are in a position to raise money

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